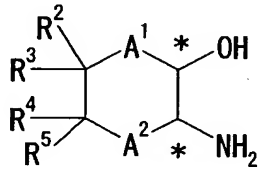
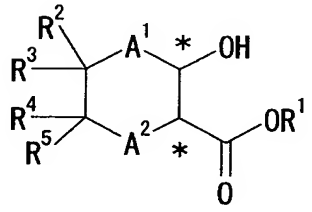
What is claimed is:

1. A process for the production of an optically active amino alcohol represented by the following formula (I)



(I)

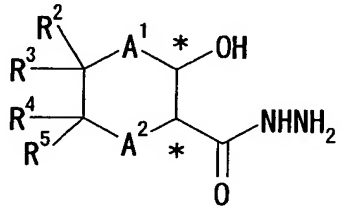
(wherein, $R^2$, $R^3$, $R^4$, $R^5$, $A^1$, $A^2$, m, n and * have the same meanings which will be defined below where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to amino group on each of asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) or a salt thereof, comprising by reacting an optically active hydroxycarboxylate represented by the following formula (IV)



(IV)

(wherein, $R^1$ is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon(s); $R^2$ to $R^5$ each independently is hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or an optionally-substituted phenyl group; with proviso that $R^2$ and $R^4$ or $R^2$ and $R^5$ or $R^3$ and $R^4$ or $R^3$ and $R^5$ taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached optionally form a ring or fused ring; $A^1$ is $-(CH_2)_m-$ while $A^2$ is $-(CH_2)_n-$ (where m and n each is an integer of 0 to 3 and m + n is 1 to 3); and * is an asymmetric carbon atom where the relative

configuration of hydroxyl group to alkoxycarbonyl group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) with hydrazine to prepare an optically-active hydroxycarboxylic hydrazide compound represented by the following formula (III)

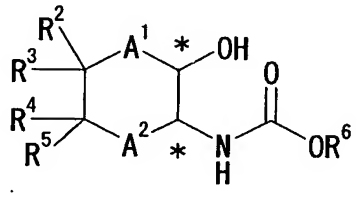


(III)

(wherein, $R^2$ to $R^5$, $A^1$, $A^2$, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to hydrazinocarbonyl group on each of asymmetric carbons marked * is trans), then conducting a Curtius reaction in the presence of an alcohol represented by the following formula (VI)

$$R^6OH \qquad \text{(VI)}$$

(wherein, $R^6$ is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon(s) or an optionally-substituted benzyl group) to give an optically active alkoxycarbonylamino alcohol represented by the following formula (II)

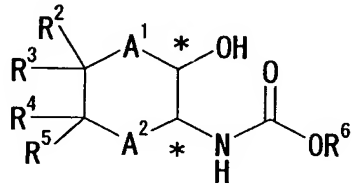


(II)

(wherein, $R^2$ to $R^6$, $A^1$, $A^2$, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl

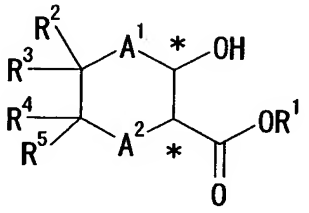
group to alkoxycarbonylamino group on each of asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) and then deprotecting a protective group for the amino group.

2. A process for the production of an optically active alkoxycarbonylamino alcohol represented by the following formula (II)



(II)

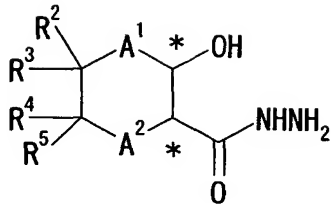
(wherein, $R^2$ to $R^6$, $A^1$, $A^2$, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to alkoxycarbonylamino group on each of asymmetric carbons marked * is trans), comprising by reacting an optically active hydroxycarboxylate represented by the following formula (IV)



(IV)

(wherein, $R^1$ to $R^5$, $A^1$, $A^2$, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to alkoxycarbonyl group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) with hydrazine to prepare an optically-active hydroxycarboxylic hydrazide compound represented by the

following formula (III)



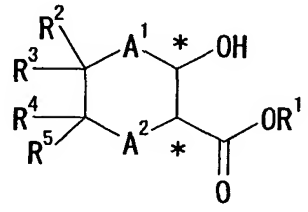
(III)

(wherein, $R^2$ to $R^5$, $A^1$, $A^2$, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to hydrazinocarbonyl group on each of asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) and conducting to a Curtius reaction in the presence of an alcohol represented by the following formula (VI)

$$R^6OH \qquad (VI)$$

(wherein, $R^6$ has the same meaning as defined already).

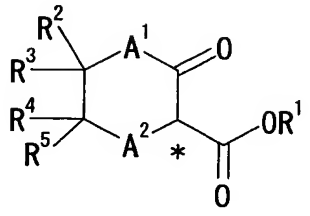
3. The process for the production according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the optically active hydroxycarboxylate represented by the following formula (IV)



(IV)

(wherein, $R^1$ to $R^5$, $A^1$, $A^2$, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to alkoxycarbonyl group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) is a product prepared by subjecting a β-keto

ester represented by the following formula (V)



(V)

(wherein, $R^1$ to $R^5$, $A^1$, $A^2$, m and n have the same meanings as defined above) to an asymmetric hydrogenation in the presence of a ruthenium complex including an optically active phosphine compound as a ligand.

4. The process for the production according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein $R^6$ is an optionally substituted benzyl group.

5. The process for the production according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein $R^6$ is benzyl group.